

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Following the amendments, claims 6, 9-11, 14-16 and 24 are under consideration, with claims 6 and 14 being in independent form.

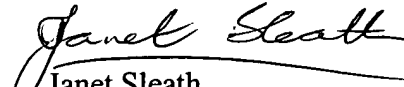
In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby elect the claims of Group II (claims 6-11 and 14-16; drawn to methods of increasing apoptotic cell death by reducing the amount of a transcriptional regulator of apoptosis available to bind to a target polynucleotide).

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 1-5, 12, 13 and 17-23 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claim 6 has been amended to include subject matter previously recited in claims 7 and 8; and claims 7 and 8 have been canceled from the application. Newly added claim 24, which is dependent on claim 11, is drawn to methods employing the decoy oligonucleotides provided in SEQ ID NO: 2 and 11. Support for claim 24 may be found in Examples 2 and 3, and throughout the specification as originally filed.

It is urged that support for all the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed and that none of the above amendments constitute new matter. Applicants also submit that the above amendments are not being made for reasons of patentability but to more clearly recite aspects of the applicant's claimed invention currently of most interest to the assignee of record and therefore do not give rise to prosecution history estoppel.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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